

## County releases draft Community Development Block Grant action plan for comment

The Washington Board of Commissioners released the draft of the 2016 annual action plan for the Community Development Block Grant and the HOME Investment Partnership for public comment Feb. 16.

On the county's behalf, the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs. Each year, the county must prepare an annual action plan detailing its intended use of the funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funded activities must address the priorities identified in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

The HRA solicited applications for the 2016 program year in October 2015. The CDBG/HOME program year runs from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017. The HRA staff and CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee reviewed nine applications. The Draft 2016 Annual Action Plan contains programs and projects that are eligible for funding, meet the funding priorities of the Consolidated Plan, and scored competitively. They programs using HOME funds are:

- 150 new affordable rental apartments created by Cottage Grove Leased Housing Association, using \$86,552;
- six new owner-occupied units by Ivy Estates Development and Two Rivers Community Land Trust, using \$86,553;
- one new affordable townhome rental by Journey Home Minnesota Community Housing Development Organization, using \$69,170.

Program administration costs are set at \$23,057.

The projects in the 2016 Action Plan using CDBG funds are:

- six owner-occupied units rehabilitated in the Free to Stay Program by Two Rivers Community Land Trust, using \$200,000;
- seven owner-occupied units rehabilitated with a Home Improvement Loan Program through Washington County, using \$160,022;
- assistance to 318 persons with accessibility modifications through the City of Afton, using \$39,900;
- two owner-occupied units rehabilitated through Scattered Site Acquisition/Rehabilitation by Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, using \$160,000;
- assistance to 540 households with a homelessness prevention and crisis fund through Washington County, with \$101,209; and
- \$134,945 to be used for planning, program administration, and continuum of care.

In 2015, the program assisted with 79 affordable senior apartments under construction; seven home improvement loans in process or completed; 42 rental units rehabilitated; and eight affordable townhome units under construction for homebuyers.

The 2016 plan, incorporating any comments and edits based on public input received, will be presented to the County Board in April for final approval before submittal to the HUD.